

given by Lord Passfield to a representative of the American Jewish Press, added fuel to the flame The Cabinet was alarmed, there was an awkward bye-election pending in Whitechapel Palestine was, for the time being, taken out of the hands of the Colonial Secretary In the House of Commons, there was an acrimonious debate The Under Secretary, who only just returned from an official visit to Palestine, was put up to defend the White Paper in the House, and succeeded in doing so, with very considerable success, by filling in the gaps in it of the Development scheme He was further able, some months later, to defend it with credit before the Permanent Mandates Commission in Geneva The harm was done, however, and could not be undone

In this, the part that most men would have minded most acutely, but Lord Passfield himself showed least sign of minding, was the blow to his own prestige and consideration He had been superseded, and everybody knew it After the Debate, a Cabinet sub-committee was set up to explain the White Paper It included co-opted members from outside the Cabinet, and was presided over not by the Colonial Secretary, who was but an ordinary member of it, but by the Foreign Secretary In the circumstances a man who thought first of himself, and of his own dignity, might well have resigned, so might a man who had a keen sense of the dignity of his office The dignity of his office he felt perhaps rather too little, personal dignity he has never assumed His native modesty, that genuine

personal
humility which is so admirable a part of his
character
as *homo sapiens*, militated against effective self-
assertion,
either in this matter or as a general member of
the Cabinet
Nor could he extemporise it, in the form of a
high sense of
the status of his office as Colonial Secretary
He did not
resign, in the upshot, nor has he ever said
anything upon the
matter. One of those who worked with him,
in another